

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 and 14-22 remain pending in this application, wherein claim 1 is hereby amended.

Applicants submit that the proposed amendment to claim 1 simplifies matters for appeal and addresses a requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office action by addressing the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issue raised in the Office. As the amendment to claim 1 is the only amendment included with this response, Applicants request entry of the amendment in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 116(b)(1) and 116(b)(2).

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 1 to address the issued cited in the Office Action as being unclear, and request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph in light of the amendment.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 and 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,320,518 issued to Saeki et al. ("Saeki").

Independent claim 1 recites distribution map data including "road data in correspondence to each of a plurality of map area blocks" and "integrated name

data that provides common name information for a single road in common with the map area blocks."

The Office Action identifies the figure parts disclosed by Saeki as road data in correspondence to a plurality of map area blocks.¹

Saeki states the following regarding the "figure parts"

As described above, the map database unit 2 stores map data by dividing the map data into parts constituting the map data. Here, the part means a figure showing each road or each of facilities which constitute the map data. For example, in the map data shown in FIG. 9, national roads A6, A7, traffic lights B1 through B3, parking lots B6 through B8, building facilities B9, B10, and so on are called the parts.²

Fig. 9 of Saeki, reproduced below, shows a map including the figure parts.

Fig. 9

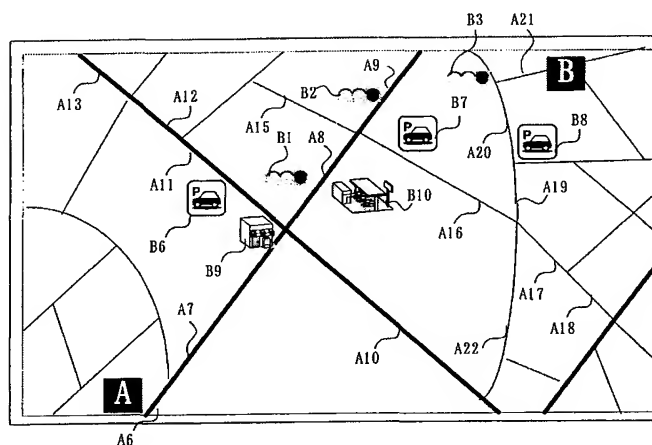


Figure parts A6, A7, A8, and A9 as shown in Fig. 9 are merely segments of a road between intersections on the map. The road segments and other figure

¹ Page 4.

² Column 8, lines 24-31.

parts do not correspond to map area blocks as recited in claim 1. Saeki is silent regarding providing integrated name data for a single road for a plurality of map area blocks in common with the single road. Accordingly, Saeki's disclosure of dividing the map data into figure parts does not expressly or inherently disclose "integrated name data that provides common name information for a single road in common with the map area blocks" for "road data in correspondence to each of a plurality of map area blocks" as required by claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Saeki for at least this reason.

Further, the Office Action cites Figure 2B, of Saeki, reproduced below as showing "common road information stored with figure parts."³

Figure 2B of Saeki, reproduced below shows a priority setting table which lists the priority for different figure parts.

Fig. 2B

	PART	
[1]ROAD		
[1-1]EXPRESSWAY	: A1, A2, A3, A4	
[1-2]TOLL ROAD	: A5	
[1-3]NATIONAL ROAD	: A6, A7, A8... A14	
[1-4]PREFECTURAL ROAD	: A15, A16... A25	
[1-5]COMMON ROAD	: A26, A27... A35	
[1-6]LOCAL ROAD	: A36, A37	
[2]TRAFFIC LIGHT	: B1, B2, B3	
[3]NAME/LETTERS	: B4, B5	
[4]PARKING LOT	: B6, B7, B8	
[5]BUILDINGS/FACILITIES	: B9, B10	
[6]RAILROAD/MONORAIL	: A38, A39	
[7]MAP SIGN	: B11, B12, B13	
[8]BACKGROUND	: C1, C2	

↑ HIGH
STATIC
PRIORITY
↓ LOW

³ Page 4.

The term “common road” as used in Saeki refers to a type of road distinct from the Expressway, Toll Road, National Road, Prefectural Road, and Local Road also shown in Figure 2B. Figure 2B merely shows providing a priority level for the figure parts of “common roads” The “common road” disclosed in Saeki is not a single road “in common with the map area blocks” as recited in claim 1.

Saeki merely discloses providing a priority level for a common road, and does not disclose providing integrated name data for figure parts of a common road. Regarding the information for the figure parts, Saeki states,

Each of the parts is registered with combined information as shown in FIG. 2A. A type (line information) includes: (1) priority (static priority); (2) supplement node list (coordinate information such as latitude and longitude showing a course of the road); and (3) attribute information (such as name of the road).⁴

Saeki merely discloses “figure parts” that are registered with information of the same format where for each part, the coordinate information and the name of the road are registered.

By contrast, claim 1 explicitly recites “integrated name data that provides common name information for a single road in common with the map area blocks. Saeki does not disclose this feature required by claim 1, and Applicants submit that Saeki does not anticipate claim 1 for at least this additional reason.

⁴ Saeki, column 8, lines 51-56 (emphasis added).

Independent claims 3 and 6 recite features similar to those features recited in claim 1 and discussed above. Applicants submit that Saeki does not anticipate claims 3 and 6 for reasons similar to those given above for claim 1.

Saeki does not anticipate dependent claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-11, and 14-22, at least by virtue of the respective dependencies of these dependent claims from independent claims 1, 3, or 6.

Further, claim 2 recites, "the distribution map data includes the road data in each of a plurality of map layers set in correspondence to different specific scaling factors." Applicants submit that Saeki does not disclose this feature recited in claim 2.

Regarding the above identified recited in claim 2, the Office Action states the following:

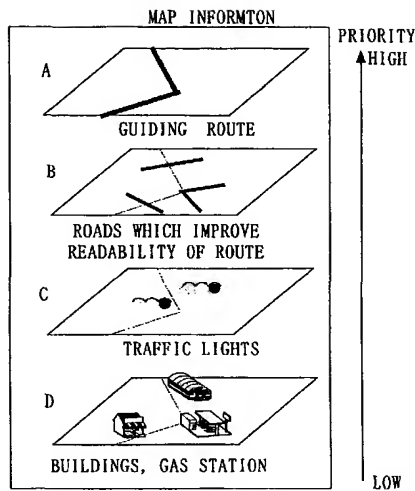
Saeki discloses that the distribution map data includes the road data in each of a plurality of map layers set in correspondence to different specific scaling factors (priority settings, col. 8, lines 7-13; col. 10, lines 38-55, Fig. 3, 4 and 10; col. 2, lines 30-36)...⁵

Saeki discloses static priorities, and states "setting the static priority to each group is called a layering of the map."⁶ Figure 3B of Saeki, reproduced below, shows the priority layering of the map.

⁵ Page 5, ¶7.

⁶ Column 8, lines 12-14.

Fig. 3B



Saeki discloses layers that provide additional details for a map. For example, as shown in Figure 3B, a low priority layer shows “buildings and gas stations”, while the high priority layer shows the “guiding route.” Saeki is completely silent regarding the priority layers corresponding to layers having different scale factors. In fact, Figure 3B appears to show each layer at the same scale.

By contrast claim 2 requires “road data in each of a plurality of map layers set in correspondence to different specific scaling factors.” Saeki does not inherently or explicitly disclose “map layers set in correspondence to different specific scaling factors” as recited in claim 2. Applicants respectfully submit that Saeki does not anticipate claim 2 for at least this additional reason.

Further, Saeki does not disclose that “the integrated name data provides the common name information for the single road in common with the plurality of map layers as well” as recited in claim 2. The Office Action cites Figure 2B of

Saeki for disclosure of “static priority settings are set for common road name.” Figure 2B of Saeki shows a “common roads” having a single priority setting. The “common road” disclosed in Saeki is not “a single road in common with the plurality of layers” as recited in claim 2. Accordingly, Saeki does not anticipate claim 2 for at least this additional reason.

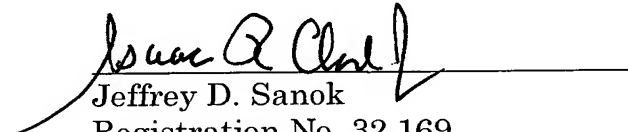
Claims 4 and 7 recite a similar feature to the feature of claim 2 discussed above. Claim 14, 15, and 16 recite this similar feature by virtue of their respective dependences from claims 4 and 7. Applicants respectfully submit that Saeki does not anticipate claims 4, 7, and 14-16 for additional reason similar to those discussed above for claim 2.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 029267.56097US).

Respectfully submitted,

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